

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 10-95)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

1504

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/806356

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/DE 99/03014

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
OCTOBER 26, 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

Method for constructing a data connection between an integrated household control system and a data terminal, and data terminal for remote control of an integrated household control system

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Jens KIRCHER

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A substitute specification.
17. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
18. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
19. ☐ Other items or information:

EF215953264US

Page 2 of 2

09/806356

JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2001

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Group: Attorney Docket # 1504

Applicant(s) : KIRCHER, J.

Serial No. :

Filed : Simultaneously

For : METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING A DATA
CONNECTION BETWEEN AN INTEGRATED
HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM ...

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

March 29, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R S:

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application
please amend the same as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Substitute the claims attached hereto.

REMARKS:

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified
application.

With the present Amendment applicant has amended the claims so as to eliminate
their multiple dependency.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Striker

Claims

1. A method for constructing a data connection between an integrated household control system (1) and a data terminal (2) located outside the base of the integrated household control system,

5 characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a likewise mobile position determining device (14), and

10 - the data terminal (11) is controlled by the position determining device (14) in such a way that if the distance from the household control base drops to a predetermined limit value, or if one reaches a predetermined region surrounding the household control base, the construction of the data connection with the integrated household control system (1) is automatically initiated via a mobile interface (18) of the data terminal.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via a mobile radio network.

3. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via the internet.

4. The method of claim 1, characterized in that for data traffic which trips an alarm in the data terminal (11), a data connection with the data terminal (11) is constructed beginning at the integrated household control system (1), unless a data
5 connection already exists in the opposite direction.

5. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the mobile data terminal (11) is disposed in a motor vehicle (10).

6. The method of claim 1, characterized in that a computer serves as the data terminal (11).

7. The method of claim 5, characterized in that the computer also serves to control motor vehicle functions.

8. The method of claim 1, characterized in that an internet telephone serves as the data terminal (11).

9. The method of claim 1, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15) serves as the position determining device (14).

10. The method of claim 1, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile station of a mobile radio system serves as the position determining device (14).

11. The method of claim 1, characterized in that if the distance between the mobile data terminal (11) and the household control base drops to the predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region surrounding the household control base is

predetermined region surrounding the household control base is
5 reached, the home page of the integrated household control system
(1) is automatically started by a browser (12) that belongs to
the data terminal (11).

12. A data terminal for remote control of an integrated
household control system, characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a
mobile position determining device (14), which has an evaluator
5 which if the distance from the household control base drops to a
predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region
surrounding the household control base is reached, automatically
outputs a control signal, and

- the data terminal (11) has an initiating device (13),
10 which upon reception of the control signal initiates the
construction of a data connection with the integrated household
control system (1).

13. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that
as its initiation device (13), it has a browser (12), which can
be started by the control signal and is provided for the
automatic construction of a data connection with an integrated
5 household control system (1) via the internet.

14. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that
as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile station
in a mobile radio network.

15. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile internet telephone.

16. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15).

17. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile station of a mobile radio system.

Claims

1. A method for constructing a data connection between an integrated household control system (1) and a data terminal (2) located outside the base of the integrated household control system,

5 characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a likewise mobile position determining device (14), and

10 - the data terminal (11) is controlled by the position determining device (14) in such a way that if the distance from the household control base drops to a predetermined limit value, or if one reaches a predetermined region surrounding the household control base, the construction of the data connection with the integrated household control system (1) is automatically initiated via a mobile interface (18) of the data terminal.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via a mobile radio network.

3. The method of claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via the internet.

4. The method of [one of claims 1-3] claim 1, characterized in that for data traffic which trips an alarm in the data terminal (11), a data connection with the data terminal (11) is constructed beginning at the integrated household control system (1), unless a data connection already exists in the opposite direction.

5. The method of [one of the foregoing claims] claim 1, characterized in that the mobile data terminal (11) is disposed in a motor vehicle (10).

6. The method of [one of the foregoing claims] claim 1, characterized in that a computer serves as the data terminal (11).

7. The method of [claims 5 and 6] claim 5, characterized in that the computer also serves to control motor vehicle functions.

8. The method of [one of claims 1, 3 and 4-7] claim 1, characterized in that an internet telephone serves as the data terminal (11).

9. The method of [one of the foregoing claims] claim 1, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15) serves as the position determining device (14).

10. The method of [one of the foregoing claims] claim 1, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile station

of a mobile radio system serves as the position determining device (14).

11. The method of [claims 1, 2 and 4-10] claim 1, characterized in that if the distance between the mobile data terminal (11) and the household control base drops to the predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region
5 surrounding the household control base is reached, the home page of the integrated household control system (1) is automatically started by a browser (12) that belongs to the data terminal (11).

12. A data terminal for remote control of an integrated household control system, characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a mobile position determining device (14), which has an evaluator which if the distance from the household control base drops to a predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region surrounding the household control base is reached, automatically outputs a control signal, and

- the data terminal (11) has an initiating device (13),
10 which upon reception of the control signal initiates the construction of a data connection with the integrated household control system (1).

13. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a browser (12), which can be started by the control signal and is provided for the automatic construction of a data connection with an integrated

5 household control system (1) via the internet.

14. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile station in a mobile radio network.

15. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile internet telephone.

16. The data terminal of [one of claims 12, 13 and 15] claim 12, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15).

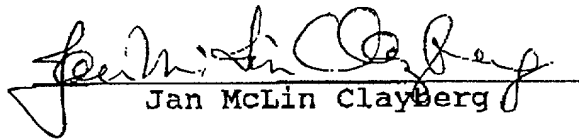
17. The data terminal of [one of claims 12 or 14] claim 12, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile station of a mobile radio system.

March 28, 2001

DECLARATION

The undersigned, Jan McLin Clayberg, having an office at 5316 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207-1522, hereby states that she is well acquainted with both the English and German languages and that the attached is a true translation to the best of her knowledge and ability of International Patent Application PCT/DE 99/03014 of KIRCHER, J., entitled "METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING A DATA CONNECTION BETWEEN AN INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM AND A DATA TERMINAL, AND DATA TERMINAL FOR REMOTE CONTROL OF AN INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM".

The undersigned further declares that the above statement is true; and further, that this statement was made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent resulting therefrom.


Jan McLin Clayberg

11/PR5

09/806356

JCOE Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2001

METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING A DATA CONNECTION BETWEEN AN
INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM AND A DATA TERMINAL,
AND DATA TERMINAL FOR REMOTE CONTROL OF AN INTEGRATED
HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM

5

Prior Art

The invention is based on the generic types defined by the preambles to independent claims 1 and 12.

10
15
20
25

An integrated household control system combines technical functions and applications in the household. These include for instance security technology; controlling the heating, ventilation and air conditioning; controlling the lights and window shades; and load management. As household appliances and other technical equipment are integrated in the household, the integrated household control system undergoes progressive expansion. This includes controlling the stove, washing machine, shutters, and garage door; remote reading of the gas or water meter, for instance; and so forth. The integrated household control system is designed as a system that covers both equipment and applications and that integrates all the individual components and applications present in the house or apartment into one system. The data exchange between sensors, actuators and a central station is done over the so-called European Installation Bus (EIB) of the European Installation Bus Association (EIBA), of which the leading European electrical installation companies are members.

From the on-line edition of the daily newspaper

Die Welt (with a copyright note dated November 6, 1997),
under the headline "Das Internet steuert den digitalen
Herd" [The Internet Controls the Digital Stove], it has
become known that inhabitants of a house can set up
their own individual household program and manage it,
guided by a dialogue, by typing on the screen using a
so-called home assistant made up of a PC and software.
Looking toward the 21st century, this raises the concept
that a "stuck washing machine cycle" can easily be
repaired by customer service on-line using a telephone
network, or that the Sunday roast can be prepared fully
automatically in the digital stove using recipe software
from the internet.

The "Gira HomeServer" for the "Gira Instabus
System" has been announced on the market. The
"HomeServer" can be controlled in a house using a
cordless phone. However, it can also be operated from
outside, specifically from a mobile phone and/or
worldwide from a PC using a modem.

With the "Easylon WebServer Software" from Gesytec
GmbH, Aachen, Germany (www.gesytec.de), it is possible
to perform remote control, remote maintenance, remote
display, and remote monitoring via the internet and the
intranet.

According to the Handelsblatt [Commercial Gazette]
of November 20, 1997, page 41, a motor vehicle is in
development that has its own internet address -
practically a rolling PC - in which the connection to
the internet is done in one transmission direction
("downstream") via satellite, and in the other direction
("upstream") via mobile radio. Satellite positioning

with a built-in GPS system is also contemplated.

According to Elektronik [Electronics] 22/1997,
page 24, for the many applications both known and new in
an automobile, the idea has also arisen in this
connection of using only a single processor, instead of
isolated applications on different platforms.

Advantages of the Invention

The subject of the application as defined by the
characteristics of claim 1 and claim 12 has the
following advantage:

With the method and the data terminal of the
invention, an inhabitant of a house with household
control technology is enabled to have household control
functions tripped automatically as soon as he approaches
the house. Especially if a motor vehicle-based computer
that has an internet connection is provided with a
navigation device or at least with a position
determining device, the control software for the
household control can be started automatically upon an
approach to the house to be controlled.

This can be done in such a way that a web browser
is automatically started with the household control home
page. However, it can also be achieved by simple
triggering using a telephone modem.

Advantageous refinements are defined by the
dependent claims, the characteristics of which can also,
where appropriate, be combined with one another.

Preferably, a PC (personal computer) with an internet connection, located in a motor vehicle, will be used to gain contact via the internet with the central station (control computer) of the household control, and thus to perform control operations in the house or to perform monitoring from the motor vehicle itself.

Examples of such control operations are controlling the garage door, turning on the heating, heating up a previously prepared meal, turning the lights on and off, and so forth.

Examples of monitoring operations are transmitting the alarm of an alarm system to the motor vehicle; the driver or passenger can then call the police, instead of entering the house. This enhances security in the event that an alarm has been triggered by a break-in.

Examples of status calls: Are the lights, stove and heating system turned off? Are the faucets off and windows and doors closed?

Operation of the intercom at the door.

Drawing

One exemplary embodiment of the invention is shown in the drawing and described in further detail below.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a block circuit diagram of a system that is suitable for performing the method of the invention; and

Fig. 2 is a flow chart.

Description of the Exemplary Embodiment

In Fig. 1, as a household control base, a house in which an integrated household control system 1 is located is shown. The integrated household control system essentially comprises a central entity (personal computer) 2 with a bus 3 (such as XT10 bus or an EIB), to which sensors and actuators, such as a garage door motor 4, are connected.

As the data terminal 11, a personal computer is located in a motor vehicle 10 and has a browser 12 and an initializing device 13 and a navigation device 15. The navigation device is provided with a position determining device 14.

Also connected to the data terminal 11 is a display 16 and a mobile radio module 17, by way of whose mobile interface 18 a connection can be made to a mobile radio network 100 (such as a GSM network).

The personal computer 11 furthermore, via a control unit 19, controls functions of the motor vehicle 10 (such as engine control, vehicle dynamics, and so forth).

To enable communication between the mobile data terminal 11 and the central station 2 of the integrated household control system 1, the central station 2 is connected to a telephone network 20, to which a telephone 6, for example, is also connected at the household control base. The connection between the central station 2 of the integrated household control system 1 and the telephone network 20 can be made for instance by means of a modem, or possibly also by means of a terminal adaptor or some other suitable device.

The telephone network 20 can be a mobile radio network (not shown) or a dedicated circuit network (as shown). The communication route between the interfaces 7 and 18 leads via an access node 21 for the internet, which is provided in the telephone network 20. Between this access node 21 and a node 22, the transmission of data takes place in the internet, or in other words in packet-oriented fashion, while a line-mediated transmission takes place in the dedicated circuit network 20. From the node 22, a connection leads to a base station 23 of the same mobile radio network that the mobile interface 18 is part of.

It is characteristic for the embodiment of the invention in accordance with the exemplary embodiment that the transmission of data (such as alarm data) from the integrated household control system 1 to the mobile data terminal 11 can possibly take place over the same lines and wireless connections as a dial-up connection, but some of the distance is overcome with a packet-oriented transmission method that follows the internet protocol, instead of using a line-conducted (exclusive) transmission method.

The connection thus made between the data terminal 11 in the motor vehicle 10 and the integrated household control system 1 can now be used to control household appliances from the motor vehicle, and in particular to turn them on or off. This requires merely that an internet connection with the central entity 2 of the integrated household control system 1, or with a specific household appliance, be made via the browser located on the mobile data terminal 11. The operation can be done via suitable home pages or other kinds of

human-machine interfaces.

In this way, the garage door can for instance be opened, or the heating system can be turned on. However, it is also possible to trip closed-loop control operations, such as lowering the temperature in the house in case one had forgotten to do so upon leaving the house. Finally, status calls are also possible, for instance for whether the shutters are in fact closed.

The packet-oriented method has some advantages that prove especially desirable in the motor vehicle: There are cost advantages, which are especially great if the dial-up nodes for both the central station 2 of the integrated household control system 1 and for the mobile data terminal 11 can be reached at local calling rates. Furthermore, because of the packet-oriented mode of transmission, more than one internet connection can be maintained via a single dial-up connection. This makes it possible on the one hand to maintain contact simultaneously with a plurality of integrated household control systems, or with a plurality of appliances within one integrated household control system, from the motor vehicle itself. However, it is also possible to maintain not only the active internet connection with the integrated household control system but a simultaneous active internet telephone connection.

Fig. 2 shows the sequence of an automated remote-control operation, in which the position determining device 14 shown in Fig. 1 trips the initializing device 13 as soon as the distance of the motor vehicle 10 from the household control base, as the vehicle returns home, has dropped to a limit value for instance of 500 meters.

First (block 30), the position determining device 14 reports the drop of the distance to the limit value of 500 meters.

5 This starts up the initializing device 13, and the personal computer of the mobile data terminal 11 with the aid of the browser 12 constructs a connection with the integrated household control system 1 and shows its home page on the display 16 (block 31).

10 The driver of the motor vehicle 10 thereupon selects the command "open the garage door" from a menu (block 32).

Corresponding remote control data are now transmitted by the internet protocol to the base station 23, the node 22, and the access node 21 via the GSM network, and finally to the modem 7 and the central entity 2 via the telephone network 20 (block 33).

In accordance with the remote control data received, the garage door is opened (block 34).

Possibilities for Modification

20 While in the example of Fig. 2 the impetus for the construction of the connection between the integrated household control system 1 and the mobile data terminal 11 comes from the data terminal, it is also possible, and specifically for data traffic that trips an alarm in
25 the data terminal 11, for a data connection to be constructed from the integrated household control system, via the internet, unless a data connection that has been constructed in the opposite direction already

exists.

In a departure from Fig. 1, the position
determining device 14 and/or the mobile radio modem 17
each make joint use of at least one component of a
mobile station of a mobile radio system.

The internet connection between the components 21
and 22 can also be replaced by a dedicated circuit
network and in particular a dedicated telephone circuit
network connection, so that the dedicated telephone
circuit network 20 extends as far as the base station
23.

Finally, the invention is not limited to the
capability of transmitting the data between the central
station 2 and the data terminal 11 in one of the two
directions by the internet protocol. On the contrary,
line-mediated connections or mobile radio connections in
one or both directions can be used.

Claims

1. A method for constructing a data connection between an integrated household control system (1) and a data terminal (2) located outside the base of the integrated household control system,

5

characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a likewise mobile position determining device (14), and

- the data terminal (11) is controlled by the position determining device (14) in such a way that if the distance from the household control base drops to a predetermined limit value, or if one reaches a predetermined region surrounding the household control base, the construction of the data connection with the integrated household control system (1) is automatically initiated via a mobile interface (18) of the data terminal.

2. The method of claim 1, characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via a mobile radio network.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the data connection between the data terminal (11) and the integrated household control system (1) is constructed via the internet.

4. The method of one of claims 1-3, characterized in that for data traffic which trips an alarm in the data terminal (11), a data connection with the data terminal (11) is constructed beginning at the integrated household control system (1), unless a data connection already exists in the opposite direction.

5. The method of one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the mobile data terminal (11) is disposed in a motor vehicle (10).

6. The method of one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that a computer serves as the data terminal (11).

7. The method of claims 5 and 6, characterized in that the computer also serves to control motor vehicle functions.

8. The method of one of claims 1, 3 and 4-7, characterized in that an internet telephone serves as the data terminal (11).

9. The method of one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15) serves as the position determining device (14).

10. The method of one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that at least one component of a mobile station of a mobile radio system serves as the position determining device (14).

11. The method of claims 1, 2 and 4-10,

characterized in that if the distance between the mobile data terminal (11) and the household control base drops to the predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region surrounding the household control base is reached, the home page of the integrated household control system (1) is automatically started by a browser (12) that belongs to the data terminal (11).

12. A data terminal for remote control of an integrated household control system, characterized in that

- the data terminal (11) is mobile and is coupled with a mobile position determining device (14), which has an evaluator which if the distance from the household control base drops to a predetermined limit value, or if a predetermined region surrounding the household control base is reached, automatically outputs a control signal, and

- the data terminal (11) has an initiating device (13), which upon reception of the control signal initiates the construction of a data connection with the integrated household control system (1).

13. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a browser (12), which can be started by the control signal and is provided for the automatic construction of a data connection with an integrated household control system (1) via the internet.

14. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile

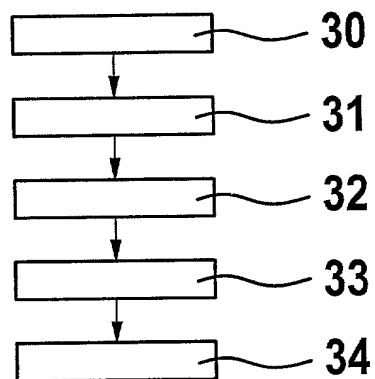
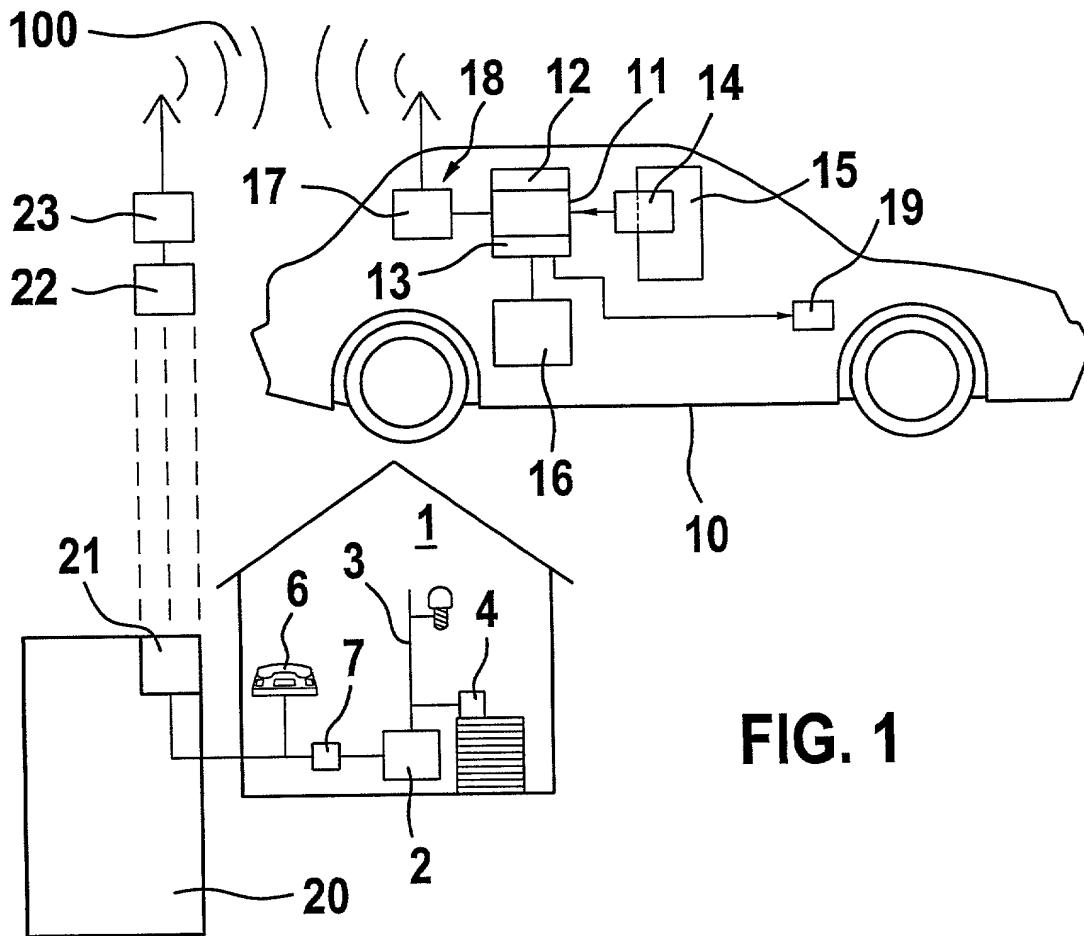
station
in a mobile radio network.

15. The data terminal of claim 12, characterized in that as its initiation device (13), it has a mobile internet telephone.

16. The data terminal of one of claims 12, 13 and 15, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile navigation device (15).

17. The data terminal of one of claims 12 or 14, characterized in that the position determining device (14) has at least one component of a mobile station of a mobile radio system.

1/1



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Jens KIRCHER

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTING A DATA CONNECTION BETWEEN AN INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM AND A DATA TERMINAL, AND DATA TERMINAL FOR REMOTE CONTROL OF AN INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD CONTROL SYSTEM** the specification of which was filed as PCT International Application number PCT/DE 99/03014 on September 28, 1999.

I hereby state that I believe the named inventor or inventors in this Declaration to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior foreign application(s):

Priority claimed:

<u>198 49 194.8</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>OCTOBER 26, 1998</u>	<u>X</u>	
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	No
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	No

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Michael J. Striker, Reg. No. 27233 

Direct all telephone calls to Striker, Striker & Stenby at telephone no.: (631) 549 4700 and address and all correspondence to:

STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
U.S.A.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment,

or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature: <i>Jens Kircher</i>	Date: <i>17/12/01</i>	Residence and Full Postal Address: Drosselweg 19 D-70839 Gerlingen Germany <i>DEX</i>
Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: Jens KIRCHER	Citizenship: GERMAN	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Second Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Third Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Fourth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Fifth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Sixth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Seventh Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Eighth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Ninth Inventor:	Citizenship:	